Ano Hi no Kimi wo Dakishimeta nara

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 2 Chapter 7

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2

あの日のきみを抱きめたなら 2

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あの日のきみを抱きしめたなら 2

原作 崎谷はるひ
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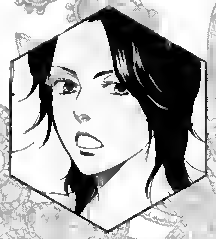
YAMAMOTO KOTETSUKO

あの日のきみを抱きしめたなら



Mio Yuuna

Kengo's fellow editor
Consults Kengo and Hidetoshi about her brother Asahi

Summary

Mutsuura Kengo's childhood friend, Sawaki Hidetoshi, is two years older, and is gay. Ten years ago, on the day of Hidetoshi's high school graduation ceremony, Kengo unknowingly rejected him. To this day, Kengo regrets that moment...

One day, he runs into Hidetoshi while covering a story. Though Kengo forces himself on Hidetoshi, Hidetoshi runs away. Now aware of his feelings towards Hidetoshi, Kengo pays him a visit and comes clean. Hidetoshi, however, is convinced that Kengo is only being childishly possessive. And so Kengo says to him, "I'll hold you, so please be with me!"

Mutsuura Kengo

26. Works as an editor for a magazine at a publishing company.
Is childhood friends with Hidetoshi, who is two years older.
Unknowingly rejected Hidetoshi in their high school days.
Aware of this fact ten years later, he regrets it.

Sawaki Hidetoshi

28. Designer.
Came out to Kengo on the day of his high school graduation ceremony, but Kengo unknowingly rejected him.
Since then, he has been involved in many abusive relationships.

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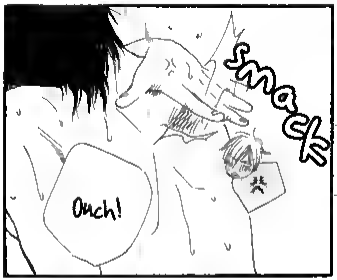
ウレシイナヤミ 183

あとがき [illegible] 191

第7話

KISS
KISS
KISS
NN..
AH...
KISS
NN..
RUSH

HAVEN'T YOU
SEEN ENOUGH OF MY BODY?
grab
YOU'RE SO NOISY
tremble
...AH!


smack
Ouch!

YOU'RE SO SENSITIVE

YOU DON'T MEAN THAT YOU'RE ALL WET AND STICKY HERE
AND IT'S NOT FROM BATHING

grip
!
NO!
DON'T TOUCH!

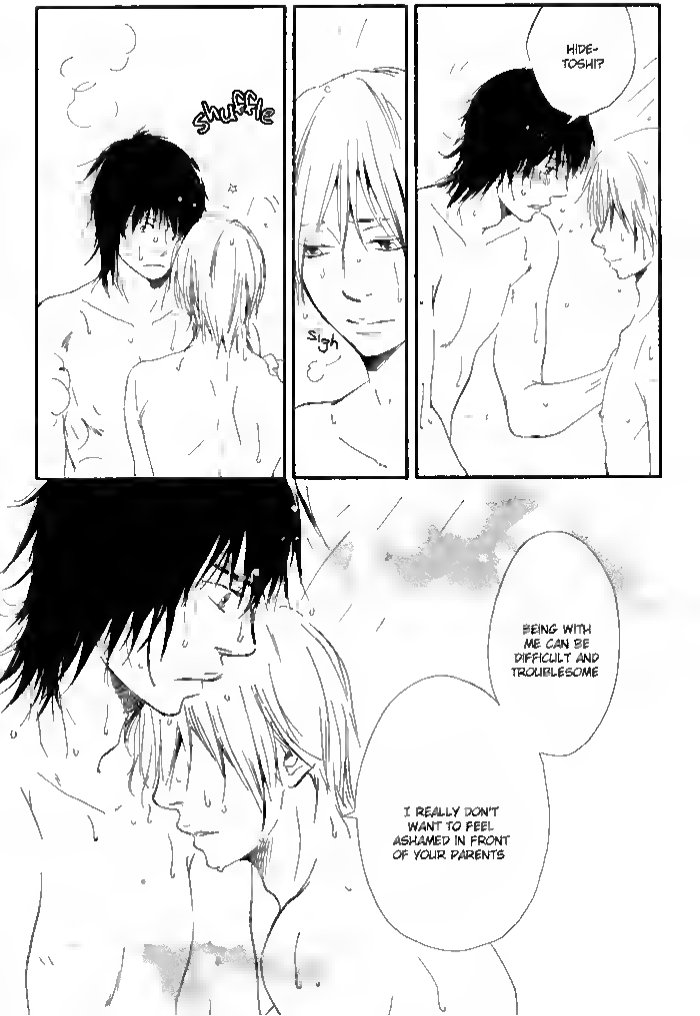
HIDETOSHI, TOUCH ME TOO
touch
!

DO YOU WANT ME TO USE MY MOUTH?
I'M GOING TO COME
Damn it
He's really good at this. He must be really familiar with this by now.

AH!
tremble
I wonder who taught him all these techniques?
AH
It really pisses me off
KENGO
AH
HEY...
I WON'T PUT IT IN TODAY
BUT CAN YOU LET ME TOUCH YOU HERE?

I WON'T HURT YOU
YOU NEVER LISTEN TO ME KENGO
HONESTLY
Sigh
Rush

SAYS WHO?
IT'S HEAR AND OBEY WHEN YOU'RE CONCERNED.
WELL, JUST NOW...
WHEN I TOLD YOU "NO" WHAT DID YOU TRY TO DO YOU STUBBORN LITTLE BRAT?
SQUEEZE
OW!
THAT REALLY HURTS!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME!?


shuffle
sigh
HIDE-TOSHI?
BEING WITH ME CAN BE DIFFICULT AND TROUBLESOME
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO FEEL ASHAMED IN FRONT OF YOUR PARENTS

HIDE-TOSHI...
I PURPOSELY DISTANCED MYSELF FROM YOU, KENGO...
BUT STILL YOU FOLLOWED ME LIKE A SHADOW.
SAYING WE WERE BEST FRIENDS MY MOST IMPORTANT FRIEND...
I didn't understand how cruel that was
SO I TRIED TO GET YOU TO LEAVE ME
YOU'VE SEEN ME AT MY WORST. MY MOST PATHETIC...
YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN WITH MANY OTHER MEN...
WHY ARE YOU STILL WILLING TO BE WITH ME EVEN NOW?

Hidetoshi was trying to hurt himself by giving up on himself
Realizing the truth behind the facts caused my heart to ache again.
It's all my fault
It was my stupidity that caused him to be hurt time and again.
hug
Rushhh

Rush
KENGO
I'M REALLY SCARED
ALTHOUGH I'M SCARED
I JUST
WANT TO BE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT PERSON
WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OR RELATIONSHIP, I JUST WANT TO BE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT PERSON

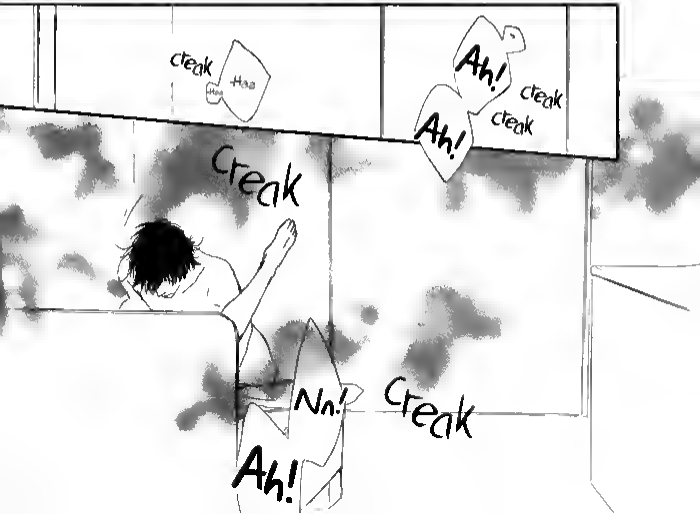
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS
BUT I'LL TREASURE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE WILL

CAREFUL
THIS FEELS STRANGE

NN...
NN...

WHAT IS IT?
?
S...
I'M SORRY, KENGO...
I'M SORRY...
WHY ARE YOU SORRY?
I SHOULD BE TELLING YOU...
TELLING YOU THAT YOU'RE WRONG. THAT I GOT CARRIED AWAY MYSELF

I don't want to hear you say such things.
I'M SORRY.
I...
Nn
Nn


Creak
Haa
Haa
Ah!
Creak
Creak
Ah!
Creak
Nn!
Creak
Ah!

LIKE HOW GOOD IT FEELS
OR YOU WANT IT DEEPER...
OR THAT YOU LOVE ME
!!
Creak
WHAT...
DO YOU MEAN...?
Ah
SAY SOMETHING SEXY.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY ANYTHING, IT SHOULDN'T BE "SORRY".
Creak
He got so that's suddenly...
OH.
blush
LOVE...

DON'T SAY ANY MORE...
I LOVE YOU, HIDE-TOSHI
LOVE YOU
LOVE YOU
DON'T!
LOVE YOU
NO!
NO, I'M TELLING YOU!
AH!
AH!
tremble
YOUR BODY'S SO GREEDY SUDDENLY.
AH!
AH...
WHAT'S THIS...?

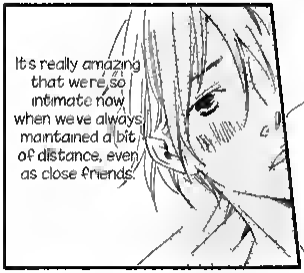
I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER WHAT IT'S LIKE
SO YOU HAD BETTER BE PREPARED OKAY?
YOU WANT ME TO REMEMBER, RIGHT?
YOU'RE REALLY...
YOU JUST NEED TO REMEMBER ME
FORGET ALL THOSE OTHER GUYS
YOU'RE SUCH A TYRANT...
AH...

HIDE-TOSHI'S NOT HERE
rousc
don't start
rise
!!
throb
YOU'RE GOING TO WORK AFTER BREAK-FAST, RIGHT?
creak
chuckle
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BREAKFAST IS READY.

hug
Wah!
WHAT IS IT, KENGO? SUDDENLY
HEY
BREAK UP WITH KANAZAWA, OKAY?
WHAT!?
I WAS LYING

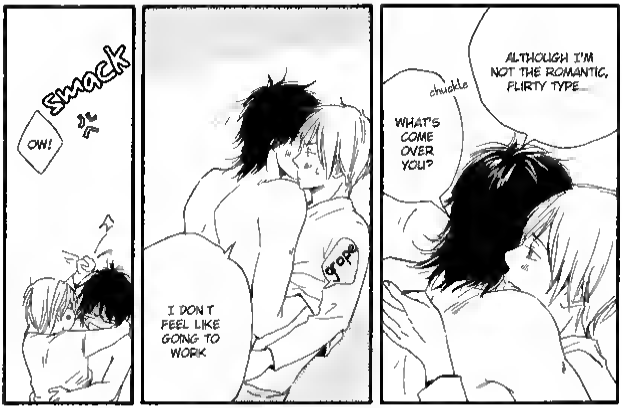
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THE THRASHING YOU GAVE HIM. HE HASN'T TRIED TO CONTACT ME SINCE.
I WAS LYING.
WE NEVER GOT BACK TOGETHER
OH...
WELL, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
I'M NOT A KID WHO NEEDS YOU TO DO THINGS FOR ME
I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK WHETHER YOU WANTED MY COMPANY IF YOU WERE GOING TO BREAK UP WITH HIM
OR IF YOU NEEDED ME TO MAKE THINGS CLEAR TO HIM
Come to think of it there aren't any more bruises on Hidetoshi's face

YEAH.
SOMEHOW, I FEEL KIND OF EMBARASSED.


It's really amazing that we're so intimate now when we've always maintained a bit of distance, even as close friends.

Even so, I knew what we're doing is right
Because it feels so right and safe when we're holding each other.

If he was still with Kanazawa he would probably have a few more bruises.


smack
OW!
I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING TO WORK
grope
chuckle
WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT THE ROMANTIC, FLIRTY TYPE...

WHAT!? YOU'RE SO COLD!
Make sure you finish breakfast too!
Stop talking nonsense and go to work!
I-I CAN'T CHANGE MY MOODS AS EASILY AS YOU DO, KENGO

ALL RIGHT.
HURRY UP AND COME HAVE BREAKFAST!
I'LL GO HOME TO CHANGE FIRST BEFORE GOING TO WORK
TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY.

YES?
CAN I COME OVER TONIGHT IF I MANAGE TO FINISH MY WORK?
AH,
HEY, HIDE-TOSHI
?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK MY PERMISSION FOR EVERYTHING
AND ANYWAY, DO YOU MEAN THEN YOU MIGHT TAKE A FEW DAYS TO FINISH YOUR WORK?
YEAH. BUT I WANT TO SEE YOU MORE OFTEN
BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS ON MY MIND

UM...
AH...
ANYWAY, I'D BETTER GET GOING. I'LL CALL YOU AFTER I FINISH WORK
OPEN
OKAY...
turn
Hurry and take him back to the bedroom!
whisper
WAIT...

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M NOT USED TO THIS YET
For Gods sake, it's not the first time Ive found him adorable
blush
slam
Go to work now!
Mmm
Maybe it's normal to feel anxious and embarrassed now.
And we have our families to consider too
I GUESS I'LL GET USED TO IT EVENTUALLY
Even so I still think you're more important than anyone else and the most adorable too

thump
Kanazawa
I have something to tell you Can we meet?
A TEXT?
silence
daze
THIS ISN'T— JUST A DREAM, IS IT?
ring ring ring
KANA-ZAWA...

あの日のきみを抱きしめたなら 2

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YAMAMOTO KOTETSUKO

ルチル R COLLECTION

あの日のきみを抱きしめたなら 2

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Volume 2 Chapter 8

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第8話

Kuroiwa
I have something to tell you. Can we meet?

beep
beep
beep
beep

ing Message
beep
R..
shock
RRRRR
RRRRR..
!!
RRR...
beep
H-
HELLO-
RRRR
RRR

DIZZY
MORN...
GOOD MORNING...
YOU'RE PRETTY LATE THIS MORNING...
WINCE
RATTLE
HAVING A HANGOVER?
AH, DON'T TALK ABOUT IT...
ASPIRIN
I WAS PERFECTLY FINE WHILE DRINKING...
WHY AM I HAVING ONE NOW...
!?

UH...
startled
YOU'RE LOOKING VERY PERKY THIS MORNING.
WELL, I'M NOT THE ONE WITH THE HANG-OVER.
twitch
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
Yes-terday you.
ANYWAY,
Motrin
More
THANKS FOR YES-TERDAY.
Ugh!
Ohhh
My head hurts.
Are you okay...?

I'M MENTALLY PREPARED FOR THE WORST TO HAPPEN
HUH?
EH?
SO
throb
throb
Ow! My head!
GEEZ, YOU NEED TO CUT DOWN ON DRINKING AT YOUR AGE

FORGET IT
That's not it.
LOOKS LIKE A BURDEN'S BEEN LIFTED FROM HIS SHOULDERS
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!
SHUT UP!
Smack
This is bad.
I should be concentrating on work.
It's scary
Is my face giving everything away?
Hidetoshi.

WAS IT TOO INTENSE?
BUT HE WAS SO SEXY
Should we do it again today—?
No, it'll be rough on him if we do it too often

Sigh
shock
DAMN,
I SHOULD HAVE KISSED HIM THIS MORNING

I FEEL SICK...
URGH...
grin
YOU
cough
Such a lecherous sigh
WHAT ARE YOU DOING.
No nothing...
stare
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A FEW MORE ASPIRIN THEN?
It's because of you, not the hangover!
From now on
I won't hurt you ever again.

Because of my stupidity you were hurt time and again
I want to cherish you even more from now on.

Hi.
YO
COME IN
Why does this feel a little weird...?
Sorry to disturb.

Is he unsettled because so much happened yesterday?
clack
AHH, UM. .
IT'S QUITE LATE
THEN I'LL MAKE SOME TEA
SO I GRABBED SOMETHING EARLIER
whistle
HAVE YOU HAD DINNER, KENGO?
He's avoiding my eyes.
BLACK TEA?
clank
IS COFFEE OKAY?
BUT I HAVE GREEN TEA TOO
HIDETOSHI

HUG
WHATEVER YOU HAVE IS FINE. I DON'T MIND.
UM...
YEAH.

whistle
AH
THE WATER'S BOILING
YEAH
kiss
kiss

Mm. He smells good

I really hope he feels the same happiness I do

kiss

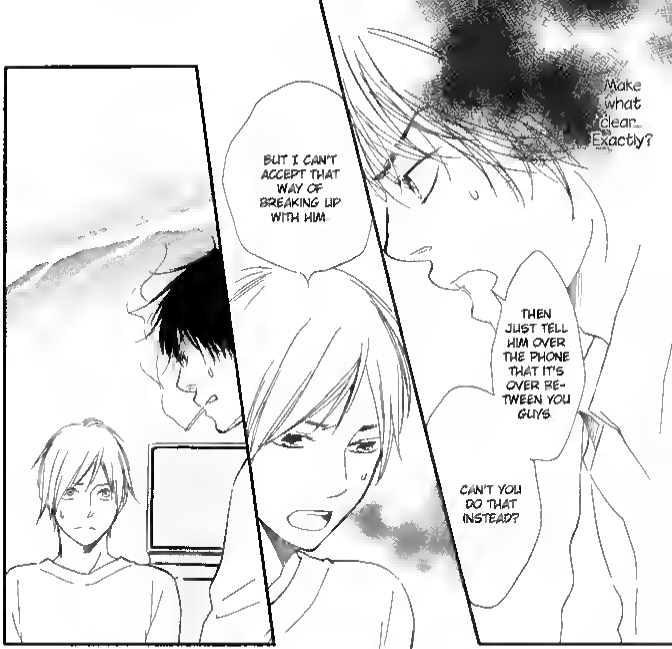
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?

kiss

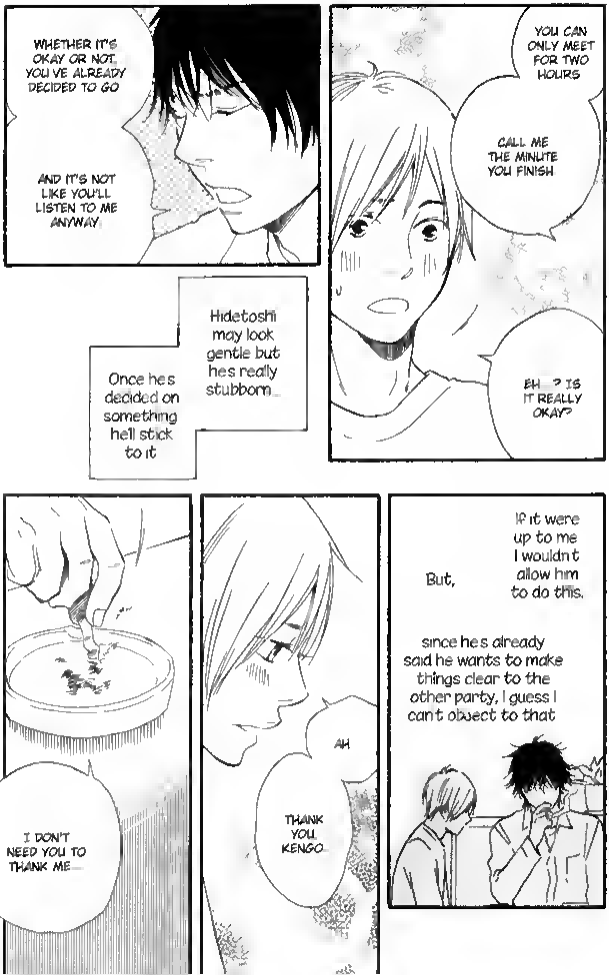
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU SO HAVE A SEAT FIRST
AH, YOU
LET'S HAVE BEER INSTEAD
STIFF
clink
KANAZAWA CALLED YOU!?
YEAH

HE SAID HE NEEDS TO TALK TO ME.
BULLSHIT.
WHAT'S THERE TO TALK ABOUT NOW?
I DON'T KNOW
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY THINKING OF MEETING HIM?
...SHOULDN'T I?
WELL, OF COURSE NOT!
WHAT IF HE HITS YOU AGAIN?

WAIT! YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO MEET HIM!?
click
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
BUT,
I DON'T THINK THAT WILL HAPPEN
HE SAID HE JUST WANTS TO TALK TO ME. BESIDES, WE'LL BE MEETING OUTSIDE.
WHAT'S THERE TO SAY NOW?
I HAVE THINGS TO SAY TO HIM TOO
WE LEFT THINGS UN-RESOLVED DURING THAT LAST TRIP.
I WANT TO MAKE THINGS CLEAR TO HIM


Make what clear... Exactly?
THEN JUST TELL HIM OVER THE PHONE THAT IT'S OVER BETWEEN YOU GUYS
CAN'T YOU DO THAT INSTEAD?
BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT WAY OF BREAKING UP WITH HIM

Puff
YOU CAN ONLY MEET IN THE DAYTIME,
AND...


WHETHER IT'S OKAY OR NOT, YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO GO
AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL LISTEN TO ME ANYWAY
Hidetoshi may look gentle but he's really stubborn...
Once he's decided on something he'll stick to it
YOU CAN ONLY MEET FOR TWO HOURS
CALL ME THE MINUTE YOU FINISH
EH...? IS IT REALLY OKAY?
I DON'T NEED YOU TO THANK ME...
AH
THANK YOU, KENGO...
But,
If it were up to me I wouldn't allow him to do this.
since he's already said he wants to make things clear to the other party, I guess I can't object to that

SINCE I'VE AGREED TO YOUR WILLFUL REQUEST, IT'S MY TURN NOW, RIGHT?
EH...?
Push
Pull
!?
AFTER YOU REFUSED TO DO IT THIS MORNING,
I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE ALL DAY
!!

HM?
YOU STILL DON'T WANT TO?
ACTUALLY, YOU LIKE DOING IT, RIGHT?
slide
IDIOT

I'm not trying to stop him from making a clean break with the past
Even so...
I'LL FOLLOW THEM QUIETLY
HE'LL PROBABLY BE MAD AT ME FOR SPYING ON THEM
But I can't help being sensitive
I can't help this jealous protectiveness because I love him

I know it's embarrassing
AH...
DAMN IT!
WAH!?
W-WHAT?
!
CLING

bump
DON'T GET HURT AGAIN.
I'M SORRY

Ano Hi no Kimi wo Dakishimeta nara

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 2 Chapter 9

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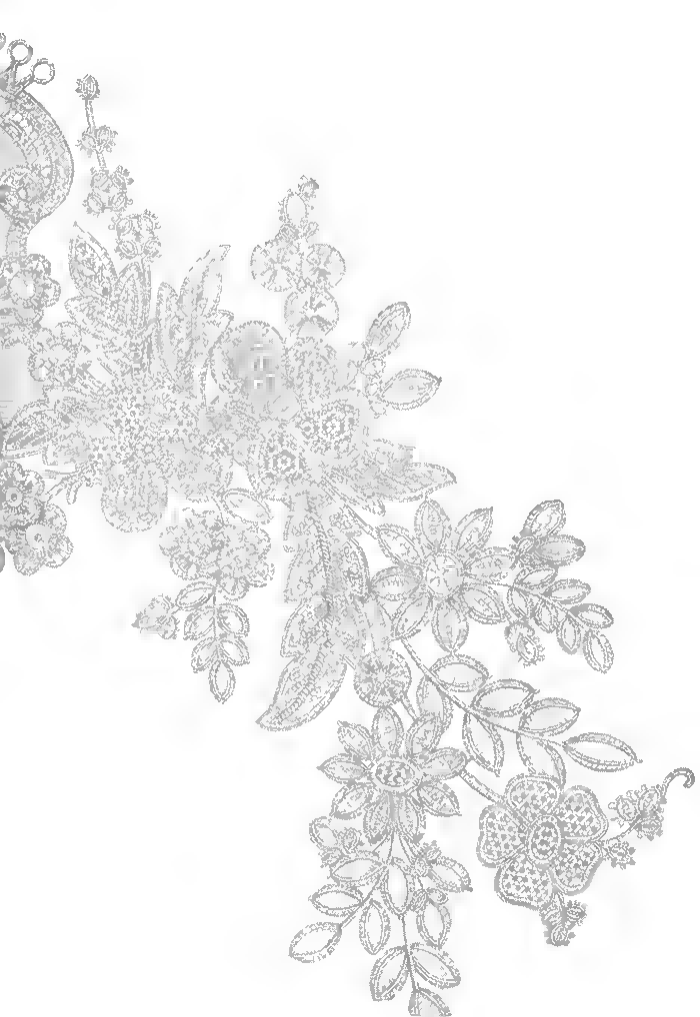
第9話

I have something to say to you too, Kanazawa...
"Don't get hurt again."
"I'm sorry."

第9話



Open
Welcome

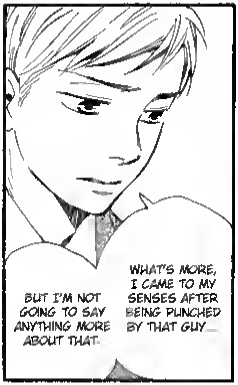
I MADE TIME TO COME HERE... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TELL ME?
OKAY
Ah, one coffee please.
I HOPE I HAVEN'T DISTURBED YOU AT WORK
SORRY TO HAVE MADE YOU COME ALL THIS WAY
Paaaic

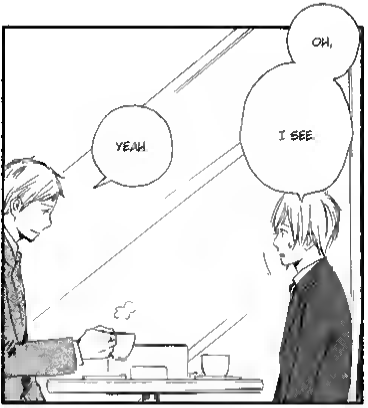
WON'T YOU RELAX A LITTLE?
I DIDN'T ASK YOU OUT TO THREATEN YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO AFRAID

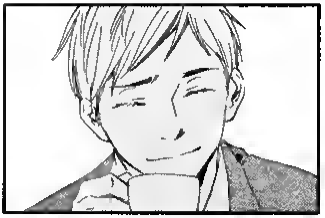
I'M REALLY SORRY TO BE PESTERING YOU ALL THE TIME
I KNOW YOU'VE MADE IT CLEAR MANY TIMES THAT IT'S OVER BETWEEN US
IT'S OKAY
I'VE ALREADY QUIT DRINKING
SO PLEASE, DON'T BE AFRAID OF ME

I'VE BEEN GOING TO A PSYCHIATRIST REGULARLY.
MEETING WITH YOU TODAY IS ALSO PART OF THE TREATMENT
!
I WON'T...
EVER DO THOSE THINGS TO YOU AGAIN.

...I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO
BECAUSE YOU DON'T BELONG TO ME ANYMORE,
RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, I'M GOING TO BE TRANS-FERRED SOON.
TO WORK IN HOKKAIDO

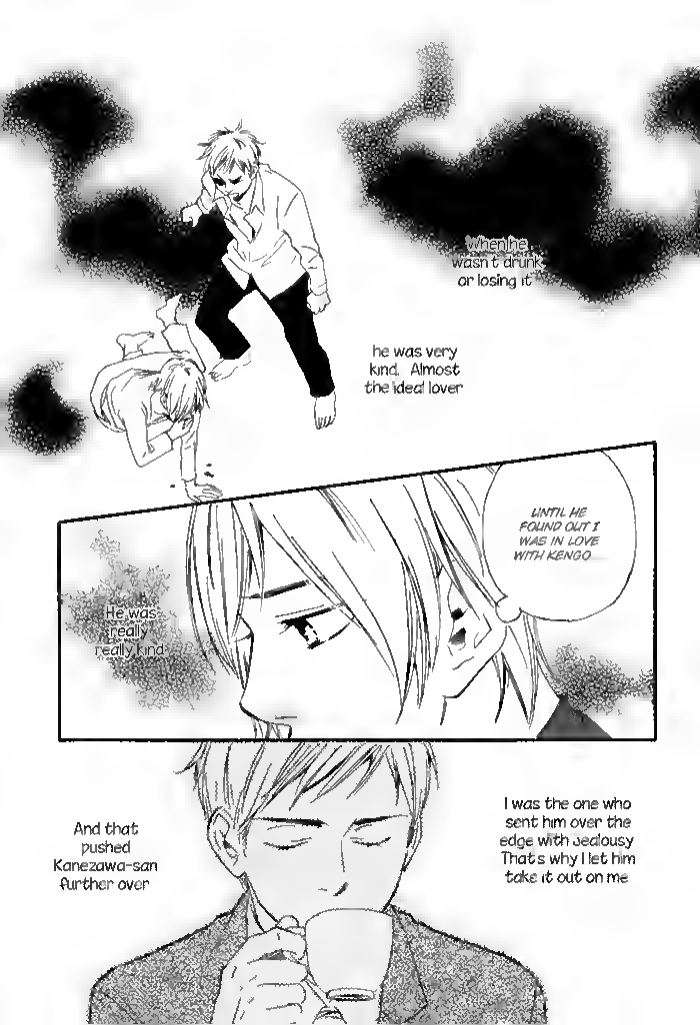

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THAT.
WHAT'S MORE, I CAME TO MY SENSES AFTER BEING PUNCHED BY THAT GUY...


YEAH.
OH, I SEE.

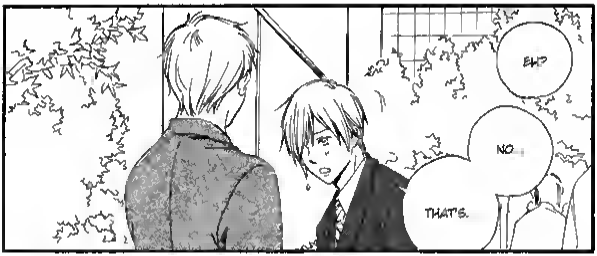


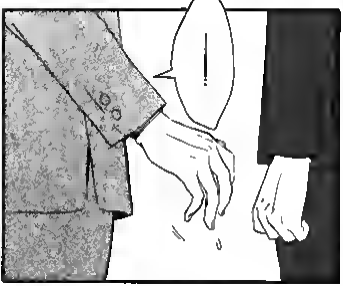
WHEN HE'S NORMAL LIKE THIS, HE'S PRETTY STEADY.
ACTUALLY, EVEN A LITTLE COWARDLY.

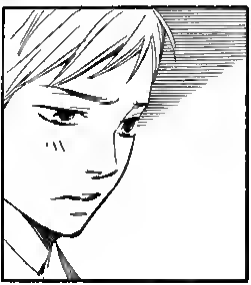
CLINGING ON TO YOU ISN'T A SOLUTION
I DON'T WANT TO BECOME EVEN MORE PATHETIC
HA HA.


When he wasn't drunk or losing it
he was very kind. Almost the ideal lover
UNTIL HE FOUND OUT I WAS IN LOVE WITH KENGO
He was really really kind
I was the one who sent him over the edge with jealousy That's why I let him take it out on me
And that pushed Kanezawa-san further over

WELL THEN, GOOD-BYE
THANK YOU FOR TODAY
ARE THINGS GOING WELL
WITH THAT GUY?
DON'T MENTION IT


EH?
NO...
THAT'S.


!

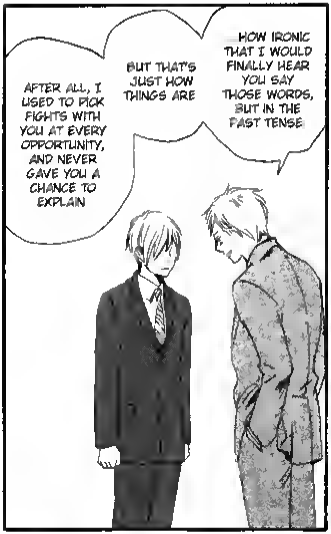


EVEN SO I'M NOT CAPABLE OF WISHING BOTH OF YOU HAPPINESS
BUT...
IT'S TRUE...
I DID SOME UNFORGIV-ABLE THINGS TO YOU

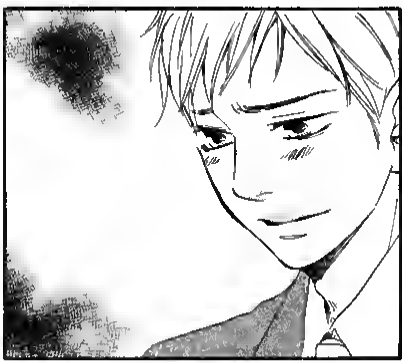
I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU SO BADLY...
KANA-ZAWA?
KANA-ZAWA...?
I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU
SEEING YOU PINE FOR HIM WAS JUST TOO SAD...
I FELT SO INDIG-NANT...
TO THE POINT WHERE I WANTED TO HIT YOU

DON'T APOLO-GIZE
I'M SORRY
— BUT THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST
mumble

I JUST GOT TIRED OF BEING A SUBSTITUTE
THERE'S NO POINT HARPING ON IT
DAMN IT


AFTER ALL, I USED TO PICK FIGHTS WITH YOU AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, AND NEVER GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN
BUT THAT'S JUST HOW THINGS ARE
HOW IRONIC THAT I WOULD FINALLY HEAR YOU SAY THOSE WORDS, BUT IN THE PAST TENSE.

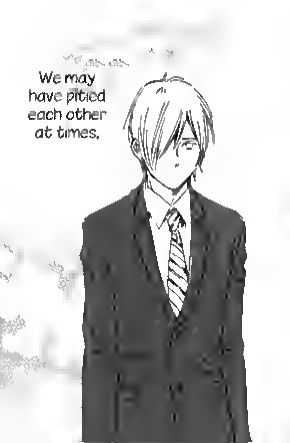
I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU.
YOU WERE NEVER A SUBSTITUTE

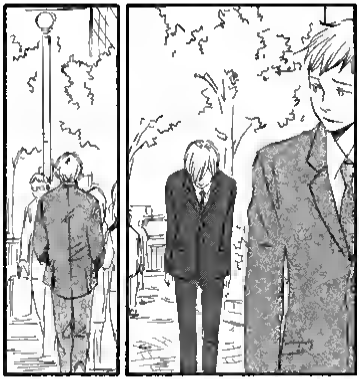


I'M SORRY

!
THIS IS A FAREWELL HUG
IT'S HARD BEING WITH STRAIGHT MEN
THEY'LL CHOOSE TO BE WITH WOMEN IN THE END.

I KNOW
THEN I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO BE SAID.


We may have pitied each other at times,



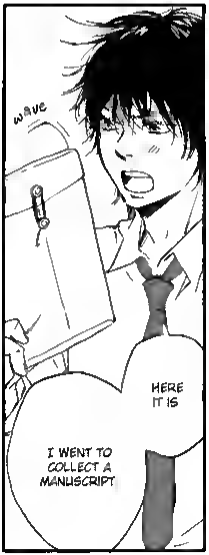
but we also had some happy times together
So even if he hit me, or raged at me
I was able to endure it
Because we had the same weakness,
I believed that eventually
we would understand each other
Even then I was already in love with Kengo
Because of that, I hurt Kanzawa time and again.

"It's hard being with straight men"
HE REALLY...
UNDERSTANDS WHAT IT'S LIKE....

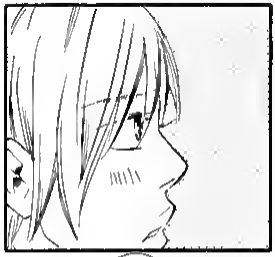
I HAVE TO CALL KENGO
"Call me the minute you finish."
FLIP
AH, THAT'S RIGHT

I CAN'T BE HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

stare


wave
I WENT TO COLLECT A MANUSCRIPT
HERE IT IS

I'M ASKING YOU WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE!?
WHAT ABOUT WORK?



...

I FOUND AN EXCUSE TO SLIP OUT AND COME HERE!
AH... DAMN IT!
ALL RIGHT, I'M SORRY! I LIED!
!

SO YOU'VE BEEN WORRIED?
YEAH

?
HMPH...
HE SURE LOOKED LIKE HE COULDN'T BEAR TO LET YOU GO
ALL WE DID WAS TALK
SO WE COULD END THINGS AMICABLY
HE WAS HUGGING YOU SO TIGHTLY
I WAS JUST SURPRISED THAT HE WOULD DO IT WITH SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE AROUND
YOU'RE JEALOUS?

I HATE THOSE PEOPLE WHO HUG AND KISS IN PUBLIC
WHY GO ROUND HUGGING PEOPLE? HE'S JAPANESE, ISN'T HE?
Can't they be more restrained?
REALLY ...?
two
...IT WAS JUST AN ORDINARY HUG
EVEN THOUGH YOU LOOK LIKE THE TYPE TO INDULGE IN PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION YOURSELF?
NON-SENSE
angry
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DO YOU WANT US TO BE LIKE THAT?
EH ...?
startle
!

GLUED TO EACH OTHER WHEN WE'RE OUTSIDE
I GUESS IT WOULD BE RATHER EMBARRASSING
EXACTLY
BUT IF WE WERE THEIR AGE, IT WOULD JUST BE ACCEPTED AS TYPICAL TEENAGE BEHAVIOR.
Brats. Teenagers sure are open these days.
Yeah.

DAWN
LET'S GO, HIDETOSHI
blink blink
AH

...UWAH!
PU
EH!?
EH!

THIS IS OKAY, ISN'T IT?
step
WE WON'T MAKE IT!
step
HEY!
step
step
EH...?
OUR HANDS!

I'll obey you in everything
HE JUST NOW NOTICED THAT?
HE'S SUCH AN IDIOT

Ano Hi no Kimi wo Dakishimeta nara

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 2 Chapter 10

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KENGO
IF YOU'RE DONE BRING YOUR BOWL HERE
YEAH
DON'T JUST "YEAH" ME
ALL THOSE BOWLS THERE NEED WASHING!
YEAH

ONCE HE CONCENTRATES, HE DOESN'T LET ANYTHING DISTRACT HIM
clack
tap?
tap
sigh
KENGO
I'LL MAKE A MOVE FIRST SINCE YOU'RE BUSY NOW

IT'S OKAY. JUST WAIT FOR ME
I'LL BE DONE REALLY SOON
YOU IGNORE ME WHEN I'M HERE
WHAT A WILFUL GUY
But you're unhappy if I'm not.

BUZZ
A MES-
SAGE
I'M SORRY, KENGO.
I CAN'T GO TO THE DESIGN EXHIBITION ON THE 15TH.
OH?
WHY NOT? HAS SOME-THING URGENT COME UP?
YEAH, MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION.

It's been ten years already
THAT INCIDENT
HIGH SCHOOL
Okay
HELP GIVE MY REGARDS TO HIM, YEAH?
WAH! SO KISHIO-SENSEI IS READY TO RETIRE I RATHER MISS HIM.
OH MAN, REALLY?
SO THE CLASS RE-UNION COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED THAT EVERY-ONE ATTEND IT
I WASN'T PLANNING ON GOING
BUT NOW I'M TOLD THAT OUR TEACHER, KISHIO-SENSEI, IS PLANNING TO RETIRE.

On the day of graduation
when I assumed that everything was over between us after I came out to him
I never dreamed we would end up together like this.
WHERE'S THE REUNION BEING HELD?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I THINK I KNOW WHICH ONE...
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER?
HIDE-TOSHI,
IS IT REALLY OKAY?
THERE'S A RESTAURANT AZAREAL ON 2-CHOME THEY'RE HAVING A BUFFET IN THE HALL
shuut
HUH?
YOU HAVEN'T GONE TO ANY OF THESE REUNIONS SINCE YOU GRADUATED,
OR GONE BACK HOME

Why are you suddenly saying these things?
Hide toshi
You're lying! Stop it!
You've got to be kidding!
A small city that's just two hours by train from Tokyo
That's how near my hometown is. I can go back any time I wish.
But I haven't been back even once to see my parents since I graduated

KENGO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO WORRIED
YOU'RE REALLY OKAY?
lean
!

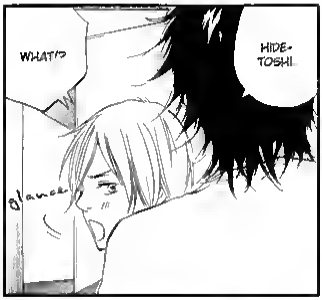
stand
YOUR COFFEE'S COLD
YOU WANT A NEW CUP?
HEY...
WHAT...
YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING STUFF LIKE THAT YOURSELF
thud
grab
...WAH!

TRYING TO DISTRACT ME WITH THE COFFEE?
IT WAS JUST A KISS
tremble
lick
WAIT

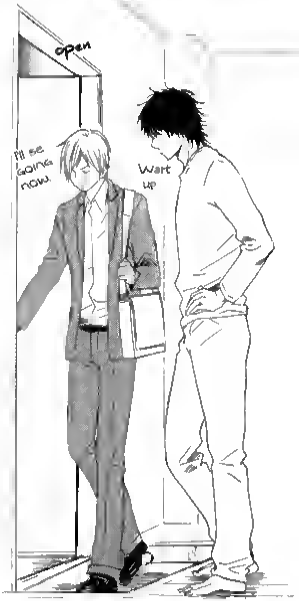
YOUR WORK!
WAIT A MINUTE KENGO
MY MIND'S A BLANK THANKS TO YOU
YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT UP TO ME
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
NN.

THAT HURTS!
I TOLD YOU WE'RE NOT DOING THAT ALL THE TIME!
Smack
Smack
Ow!
Ow!
WHY NOT?
IT'S JUST FOR A WHILE

blush
THAT'S BECAUSE
YOU'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO GET USED TO MY LENGTH
I DON'T WANT TO
ALSO, YOU KEEP WANTING TO DO IT LATELY, UNTIL MORNING TOO! WE'RE PAST THE AGE TO BE DOING SUCH THINGS
GET BACK TO YOUR WORK!
IDIOT!
throw
OOF!
WHAT, YOU'RE GOING BACK?
I HAVE TO WORK TOMORROW TOO!


WHAT!?
HIDE-TOSHI
glance

YOU'RE ANGRY?


open
I'll be going now
Wait up

I'LL COME OVER THIS WEEKEND
OKAY, I'LL SEE YOU THEN

ALL RIGHT
WORK HARD I'M OFF THEN.
SEE YOU
CLASS REUNION HUH...
I DON'T WANT TO GO.

It's not just my home own It's Kengo's too
I feel guilty and uneasy
Even though
IS IT REALLY OKAY?
I know nobody cares and worries about me more than Kengo does
And I know very well I can't live without him

SO WHY
CAN'T I TRUST HIM AND JUST BE HAPPY?
Sometimes I feel hurt by his over protectiveness.
Whenever he's gentle, I see my old, pathetic self in his eyes.
Then I'll start wondering if Kengo's only being that way because he feels sorry for me.

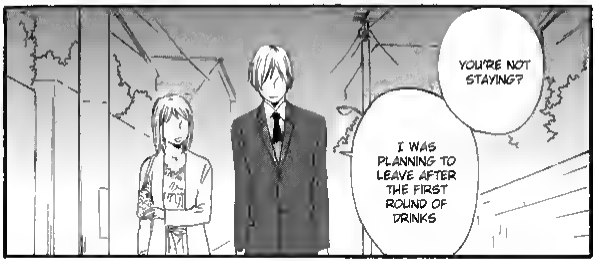
IS HE...
ONLY WITH ME OUT OF COMPASSION...?

chatter
chatter
chatter
Kishio-sensei's Farewell Party
chatter
chatter
*Sign Reception
NOT AT ALL. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, SAWAKI.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GUIDANCE BEFORE.
SENSEI, IT'S BEEN A WHILE
OH?
SAWAKI, HOW ARE YOU?
laugh
Everyone's done very well and you're all so mature now!
Not all of us, Sensei!
Nonsense, look how fat and happy you are!
Marriage
I guess it's time we started thinking about settling down

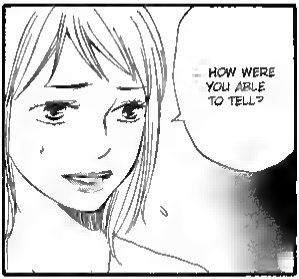
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SAWAKI-SAN
tap
SHIBUYA !?
AH
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
IS THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU'RE ATTENDING A CLASS REUNION, HIDETOSHI?
She was Kengo's girl-friend in high school...
I'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY WITH WORK
BUT I CAME TONIGHT BECAUSE KISHIO-SENSEI'S RETIRING THIS YEAR
I see!

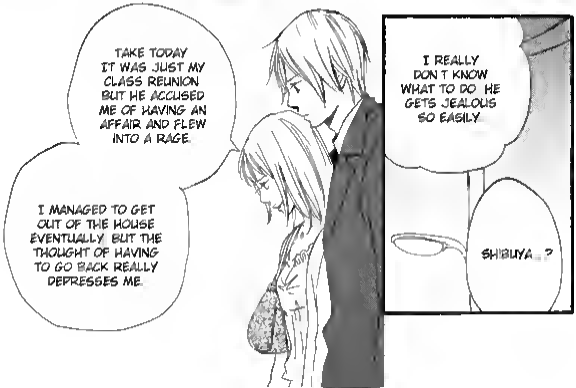
I GOT MARRIED THREE YEARS AGO
THAT...
AH, THIS.?
IT'S NOTHING I JUST FELL. Hehe
COME HERE A MINUTE.
?
No.
SHIBUYA

OF COURSE NOT.
WHAT IS IT, SAWAKI? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TRYING TO SEDUCE A MARRIED WOMAN.
MY APOLOGIES IF I'M MISUNDERSTANDING ANYTHING.
BUT YOUR INJURY— DID YOUR HUSBAND DO THAT TO YOU?


YOU'RE NOT STAYING?
I WAS PLANNING TO LEAVE AFTER THE FIRST ROUND OF DRINKS

...I KNOW SOMEONE WHO WAS IN A SIMILAR SITUATION.
I SEE


... HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO TELL?


TAKE TODAY IT WAS JUST MY CLASS REUNION BUT HE ACCUSED ME OF HAVING AN AFFAIR AND FLEW INTO A RAGE.
I MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE EVENTUALLY. BUT THE THOUGHT OF HAVING TO GO BACK REALLY DEPRESSES ME.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. HE GETS JEALOUS SO EASILY.
SHIBUYA...?

Just like me
THOSE WERE REALLY HAPPY TIMES. LOOK AT HEMI... IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE BUT HE'S ALREADY GOT THREE KIDS
BUT I WAS REALLY HAPPY TONIGHT. IT WAS LIKE BEING BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL
YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT DIVORCING HIM?
A DIVORCE WOULD KILL HIM.
YOU MUST BE REALLY SCARED WHEN HE HITS YOU?
YOU CAN ONLY PRETEND TO BE HAPPY IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ELSE
AND YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT

IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO WOULD YOU CONSIDER TALKING TO ME?
!
EXCUSE ME!
HIDEYOSHI, WHERE ARE YOU? I'LL COME PICK YOU UP NEAR THE STATION
EH...?
plop
AH,
THAT...
NO NEED, IT'S OKAY
I'M ON MY WAY HOME ANYWAY
IT'S NOTHING
YOU'RE REALLY OVER-PROTECTIVE SOMETIMES
KEN...
LOOK DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME I'LL GO HOME MYSELF
BUT I'M ALREADY HERE

!?
FOR GOODNESS SAKES...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
Dash
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU SO I CAME OVER.
HOW ABOUT GOING...
...KENGO?

KENGO ...!
DASH
UWAH!
What the!?
DON'T TELL ME IT'S YOU,
SHIBUYA-SENPAI?
EH?
?
If it's just compassion

Now there's Shibuya who's in trouble.
Shibuya's a woman... And I'm not.
While I'm already okay
As to which of us is more suitable that's just...

Ano Hi no Kimi wo Dakishimeta nara

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 2 Chapter 11

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第11話

SENPAI, DO YOU KNOW AN OPEN PLACE NEARBY?
pull
UM...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON,
BUT WE CAN'T EXACTLY TALK HERE.
rin999
rin999
rin999
rin999

O-OKAY.
SNAP OUT OF IT, HIDETOSHI.
LET'S GO THERE.
TH-
THERE'S A DINER SOMEWHERE ALONG THE STREET.

第11話

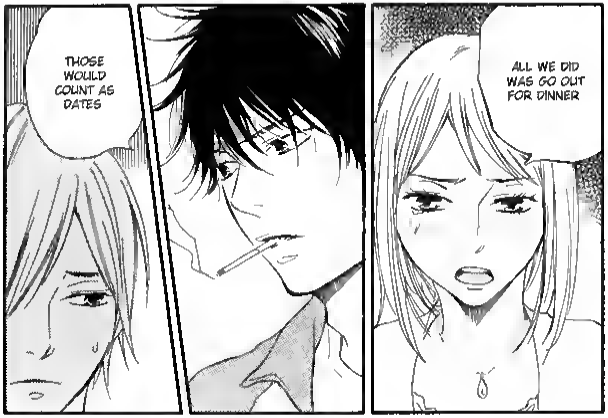
sob
...I SEE
SO YOUR HUSBAND'S BEEN ABUSING YOU.

!?
NO, ACTUALLY IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU GO HOME
YOU SHOULD STAY AT A HOTEL TONIGHT...
YOU KNOW WHAT, SHIBUYA.

YOU SAID YOUR HUSBAND SUSPECTS YOU'RE HAVING AN AFFAIR
IF YOU DON'T GO HOME TONIGHT IT'LL JUST DEEPEN HIS DISTRUST OF YOU

BUT SHE'S THE VICTIM HERE!
IT'S ONE THING IF HE'S JUST IMAGINING THINGS OUT OF JEALOUSY
BUT HAVE YOU EVER REALLY TALKED THINGS OVER WITH HIM?
COULD THERE BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING THAT'S LED TO THINGS BEING LIKE THIS?
...

NOT LONG AFTER MY MARRIAGE I BECAME QUITE CLOSE TO A COLLEAGUE IN MY PRESENT COMPANY.
THIS ONE TIME
THERE WAS...
I SEE
BUT WE WEREN'T HAVING AN AFFAIR!
AND YOUR HUSBAND FOUND OUT?


THOSE WOULD COUNT AS DATES
ALL WE DID WAS GO OUT FOR DINNER

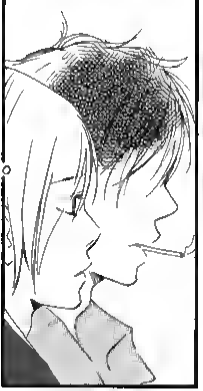
WHETHER A LOVER OR A HUSBAND
KENGO
TO YOUR HUSBAND.
THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR HIM TO BELIEVE YOU HAD CHEATED ON HIM.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE IN THAT TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP YOU SHOULD ALWAYS AVOID ACTING IN A WAY THAT WOULD CAUSE A MISUNDERSTANDING.
HAVE YOU EVER APOLOGIZED TO HIM FOR THAT INCIDENT?
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN STUBBORN.
EVEN IF YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN THE WRONG YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO SAY SORRY.
DON'T TALK AS IF YOU KNOW EVERYTHING
WHY NOT, CONSIDERING I'VE KNOWN YOU PRETTY WELL?

throb

I GUESS

HE UNDERSTANDS HER MORE THAN I DO SINCE HE USED TO DATE HER.



Her stubborn pride, and her unwillingness to be more honest emotionally

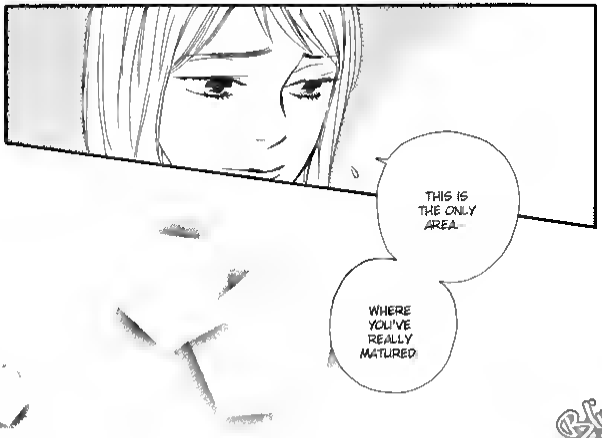
Those are things Kengo would know about being her ex-boyfriend

stub
IF YOU CAN'T BEAR IT ANY LONGER,
IF YOU'RE REALLY AT YOUR LIMIT,
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY THINK I CAN REFER YOU TO AN AGENCY FOR HELP
BUT IF THAT'S NOT THE CASE,
THEN I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU AT THIS MOMENT

KENGO
YOU'RE STILL AS UNSYMPATHETIC AS EVER WHEN IT COMES TO THESE THINGS
sigh...

SAWAKI-SAN!
THANK YOU FOR BEING SO CONCERNED BUT,
I'LL WORK IT OUT MYSELF. I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM AND REALLY TALK THINGS OVER

I'LL GET IT YOU HAD BETTER GO HOME
MY SURNAME'S HARADA NOW
SHIBUYA...


THIS IS THE ONLY AREA...
WHERE YOU'VE REALLY MATURED

Thank you.
IT'S PRETTY LATE

YEAH,
THE LAST TRAINS HAVE ALREADY LEFT...
TWENTY MINUTES AGO... WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON TOMORROW, HIDETOSHI?
I GUESSED I MIGHT BE HOME LATE SO I TOOK THE MORNING OFF.
THEN LET'S JUST STAY AT ANY BUSINESS HOTEL THAT'S NEAR THE STATION
DON'T YOU WANT TO PAY YOUR PARENTS A VISIT?

I DIDN'T EVEN TELL THEM I WAS GOING TO BE IN THE AREA TODAY
A VISIT NOW WOULD JUST BE A BOTHER TO THEM
!
It feels like Kengo
Has become this man I don't recognize
He usually behaves more like a kid when he's with me

THAT'S THE KENGO I KNOW.
?
HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
But still it feels like somethings changed.
MAN I'M TIRED.
creak
sit

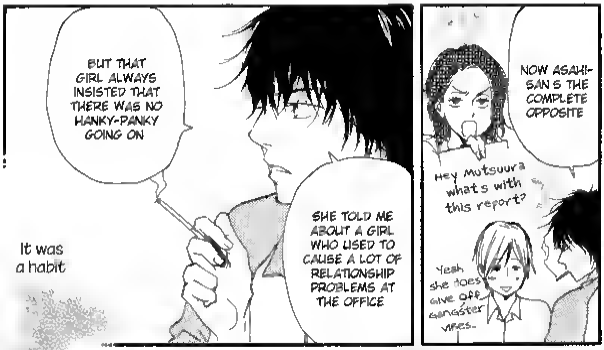
WHOA, THE WALLS ARE REALLY THIN
I CAN HEAR THE TV IN THE NEXT ROOM WHAT A LOUSY PLACE
knock knock
THE GUESTS NEXT DOOR CAN HEAR YOU TOO
HAA...
Creak
Swamp
DO YOU WANT COFFEE?
chuckle
loosen
YEAH.
Make me a cup.
I GOT A SHOCK JUST NOW
WHY?

KENGO,
YOU WERE SO COLD TOWARDS SHIBUYA...
I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO SAY SUCH THINGS TO HER
NOT WHEN SHE WAS HURT AND MORE TO BE PITIED THAN ANYTHING ELSE
HYPO-CRITE
I'M REALLY THE WORST...

Seeing Kengo act so coldly towards Shibuya has actually reassured me
But I hate myself for thinking that, so now I'm blaming Kengo instead...

EH?
YEAH?
SO WHAT IF SHE'S PITIFUL?
W-WHY NOT?
BUT I DON'T FEEL THAT SORRY FOR HER, IN ALL HONESTY
HE MAY HAVE HIT HER, BUT IT WASN'T HARD.
MAYBE YOU'RE MORE SYMPATHETIC BECAUSE OF YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE...
sit
rise
WAVE

AH
I'VE ALREADY BROKEN UP WITH SHIBUYA-SENPAI.
AND IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE OUR LAST MEETING, BUT SHE STILL BEHAVED IN THAT OVERLY FAMILIAR WAY WITH ME.
AND AT A TIME WHEN HER HUSBAND ALREADY THINKS SHE'S HAVING AN AFFAIR.
I'M NOT SAYING
IT'S HER FAULT OR ANYTHING
SHE'S JUST THAT TYPE WHO SOMETIMES SENDS OUT THE WRONG SIGNALS WHEN SHE'S AROUND MEN.


BUT THAT GIRL ALWAYS INSISTED THAT THERE WAS NO HANKY-PANKY GOING ON
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT A GIRL WHO USED TO CAUSE A LOT OF RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS AT THE OFFICE
It was a habit
NOW ASAHI-SAN'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE
Hey Mutsuura what's with this report?
Yeah she does give off gangster vibes.

She was used to sending out the wrong signals to men
She was quite unconscious of it, so she couldn't correct it. And she didn't mean to lead anyone on.

SHIIIUYA-SENPAI'S KIND OF LIKE THAT. EVEN FROM BEFORE...
YOU COULD SAY SHE WAS AN EXPERT AT USING HER FEMININE CHARM.
But she was definitely the one causing problems...

BUT, KENGO,
WHEN I WAS IN SIMILAR TROUBLE, YOU TOOK ME IN WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT
IT'S NOT SOMETHING OUTSIDERS CAN INTERFERE WITH
ANYWAY, IT'S UP TO HUSBAND AND WIFE TO WORK THINGS OUT FROM NOW

YOU REALLY TRIED YOUR BEST TO BE HONEST WITH KANAZAWA
THAT'S BECAUSE I KNOW YOU VERY WELL

—BESIDES,
I KIND OF SUSPECTED YOU HAD FEELINGS FOR ME
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I WOULD FEEL DIFFERENTLY ABOUT YOU.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF AND TRUSTED YOU, EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS
caress

SO IF YOU ASK ME FOR HELP,
I'LL HELP UNCONDITIONALLY.
KENGO
BANG
creak
shock
Ah!
withdraw
Doesn't know where to place his hand

gaze
!?
AND YOU WERE THERE TOO
Startled
ISN'T THAT ATTITUDE A BIT COLD?
MAYBE. BUT I WAS QUITE SHOCKED NONETHE-LESS
AN EX-GIRL-FRIEND'S AS GOOD AS A STRANGER TO ME..
BUT ANYWAY I WAS QUITE SHOCKED WHEN SHE HUGGED ME JUST NOW.
IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE SILLY
STOP LETTING YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD
part part
KENGO
I SAID AS MUCH. IF YOU'RE IN A RELATIONSHIP, YOU SHOULD AVOID BEHAVING IN A WAY THAT WILL CAUSE MISUNDER-STANDINGS
THAT WAS REASON ENOUGH FOR ME TO BE PEEVED

YOU'RE SPECIAL TO ME AND THAT'S NOT EVER GOING TO CHANGE
I'M TELLING YOU
LISTEN TO ME
I LOVE YOU
EH?

hug
I REALLY HOPE YOU'LL BELIEVE ME...
THERE'S NOBODY AS IMPORTANT TO ME AS YOU ARE
YEAH.
I'm sorry, Kengo...
clutch

whisper
I LOVE YOU TOO KENGO
Eh!?
You stunned me
WH-
WHAT?
SAY THAT AGAIN
SAY YOU LOVE ME.
EH?
NO WHY?
JUST SAY IT! YOU'VE NEVER TOLD ME THAT BEFORE

Push
DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE? I DIDN'T REALIZE MY OWN FEELINGS TILL AFTER YOU DID.
BUT I'VE BEEN THE ONLY ONE SAYING IT DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE TOO SLY?
WHAT HAS THAT GOT TO DO WITH BEING SLY— HEY, WAIT..
HEY!
Pissed
REALLY?
WELL, YEAH!
WE'RE DOING THAT RIGHT NOW UNLESS YOU SAY IT.
creak
creak
WAIT.. STOP IT, WE'RE GOING HOME TOMORROW!
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, THE ROOM NEXT DOOR WILL HEAR
!!

...YOU CAN TELL ME SOFTLY. PRETTY PLEASE?
NO
PLEASE? IF YOU SAY IT, WE WON'T DO IT INSTEAD
DEAL?
I love you

Hide tosh
PUSH
EH!?
WAIT! WHY?
I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH BEFORE BED
THERE! I SAID IT ALREADY SO STOP IT!
I DON'T WANT THEM TO HEAR US
GEEZ, WE CAN JUST DO IT QUIETLY

DOING IT QUIETLY WHEN IT'S WITH YOU
IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME
Why "impossible"?
Is it because it feels so good?
So good he has to mean loudly?
AHH... DAMN IT!
WE'RE SO DOING IT ONCE WE GET HOME!
JUST YOU WAIT!
I told you they can hear us next door
This is so embarrassing

Ano Hi no Kimi wo Dakishimeta nara

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 2 Chapter 12

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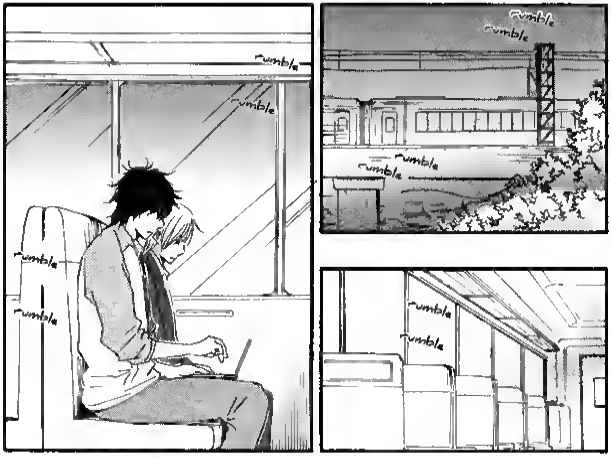

rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble
rumble

rumble
rumble
YAWN

annoyed
I COULDN'T SLEEP ANYWAY
WE COULD HAVE TAKEN A TRAIN LATER THIS MORNING. YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT SINCE LAST NIGHT—
IF YOU'RE SO BUSY YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO PICK ME UP LAST NIGHT.
tap
tap
JUST LET ME FINISH THIS FIRST.
I WANTED TO IT'S OKAY
clank
clank
clank
clank
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SULK JUST BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE SEX LAST NIGHT.

AH...
THE SUN'S RISING.

clank
clank
LOOK AT THAT BEAUTIFUL SUNRISE

clank
clank
HEY, KENGO.
WHAT?

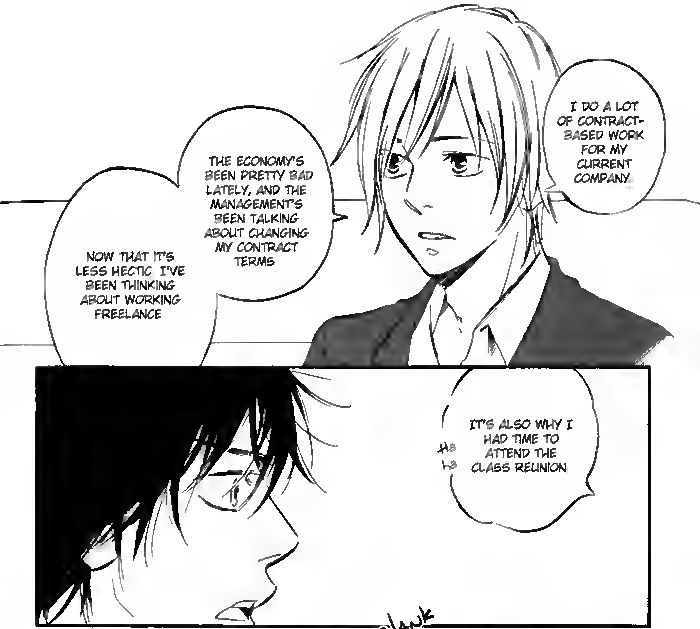
...
IT'S SO PRETTY.
ISN'T IT?
DAWN IS MY FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY.
THE COLOR OF THE MORNING CLOUDS IS JUST BEAUTIFUL...

whoosh
EH ?
clank
clank
RUMBLE
clank
clank
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
clank
clank

shiver
AH...!
kiss
gasp
THERE ARE PEOPLE!
NO, THERE AREN'T
OW!
smack
whack
whack
OW! HIDE-TOSHI!
WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO?
WELL...
YOU!
YOU!
WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING...?

I GUESS I WASN'T THINKING AT ALL I'M SORRY, ALL RIGHT?
...
sigh
GUESS I WENT TOO FAR
MUST BE THE LACK OF SLEEP GETTING TO ME I WON'T TRY ANYTHING ELSE AFTER THIS
'SCUSE ME.
stand
clank
clank
?!
glance
I CAN CONTROL MYSELF FROM HERE AT LEAST
flip
clank
clank
clank
...
flop
flop

WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM...
WHAT IS IT?
THE DESIGNER CAME DOWN WITH INFLUENZA...
CLANK
CLANK
DAMN!
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
BEEP BEEP
!
TAP TAP
THAT WOULD BE PERFECT...
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN WORK?
EH?
HUH?
AND THE DEADLINE'S TOMORROW... I JUST GOT AN E-MAIL ASKING WHETHER I KNOW ANYONE WHO CAN HELP.
CLANK
THIS IS BAD IF ASAHI-SAN'S THIS FRANTIC. THAT MEANS SHE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND SOMEONE HERSELF...
WELL, I COULD HELP OUT


I DO A LOT OF CONTRACT-BASED WORK FOR MY CURRENT COMPANY.
THE ECONOMY'S BEEN PRETTY BAD LATELY, AND THE MANAGEMENT'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT CHANGING MY CONTRACT TERMS
NOW THAT IT'S LESS HECTIC I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WORKING FREELANCE
IT'S ALSO WHY I HAD TIME TO ATTEND THE CLASS REUNION
clank

clank
WELL, I HADN'T SAID ANYTHING BEFORE
IT'S NOT LIKE I SIGNED A SPECIAL CONTRACT SO IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL
clank
clank
CHANGING YOUR CONTRACT!?
AND WORKING FREELANCE!? THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD ABOUT ALL THIS!

I trust him to be more concerned about work right now
HAA...
2階
ANYWAY, I HAD BETTER CALL ASAHI-SAN FIRST.
I guess he's perfectly capable of taking care of himself
For all his earnest appearance, he can be really stubborn.
Here I've been worrying about him, when he's actually been progressing at his own pace all this time.
LOOKS LIKE I WAS WORRIED FOR NOTHING THEN.

But..
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THEY WANT ME TO GIVE THEM A DRAFT BY AFTER-NOON TODAY.
AND THEN WE CAN DISCUSS IT.

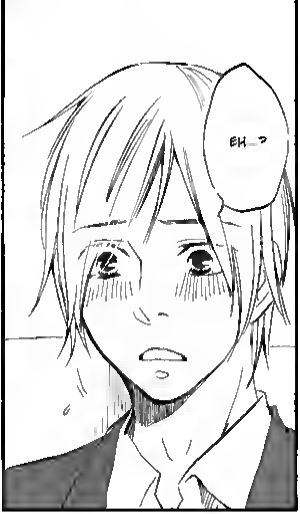
...YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME EARLIER THAT YOU'RE THINKING OF WORKING FREELANCE IT'S A MAJOR DECISION
WELL, YES.
BUT I HAVEN'T QUITE DECIDED YET
I DON'T MEAN THAT YOU JUST INFORM ME WHEN YOU DO DECIDE! I WANT YOU TO DISCUSS IT WITH ME!
I WISH YOU WOULD STOP DECIDING ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING BY YOURSELF ALL THE TIME!

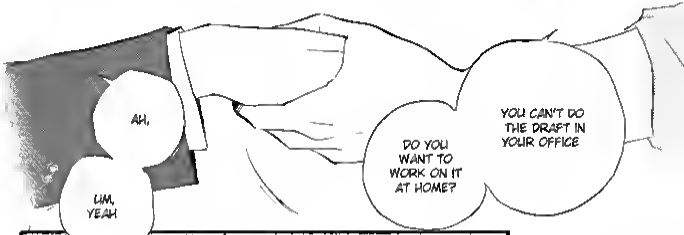
SIGH
I'M SORRY
Ah
clank
clank
IT SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME A HABIT OF MINE
BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN DOING IT
clank
clank
YEAH

MOVING TO TOKYO, COMING OUT,
AND YOUR CAREER.
YOU DECIDED EVERYTHING YOURSELF.
AND THEN YOU WOULD COME AND TELL ME WHAT YOU HAD DECIDED
I GUESS ALWAYS JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS IS MY WORST HABIT
YOUR ATTITUDE'S ALWAYS THE SAME. YOU CAN HANDLE IT YOUR
MOST OF THE TIME, YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I'M JUST INTERFERING.
THAT WAS—
WHETHER IT WAS AN ABUSIVE EX OR EVEN TODAY'S CLASS REUNION,

HE'S SIGH-ING...
HAA
DOES KENGO THINK I'M SHUTTING HIM OUT TOO ?
ALL MY EX-BOYFRIENDS SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT ME... AND THAT I SHUT THEM OUT.
...BUT,
I'M STILL GOING TO INTERFERE
SO IT DOESN'T MATTER YOU KEEP ON DOING WHAT YOU LIKE

AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE
EVEN IF YOU THINK I'M A PEST, I'M STILL GOING TO STICK TO YOU


EH...?


AH,
UM, YEAH
DO YOU WANT TO WORK ON IT AT HOME?
YOU CAN'T DO THE DRAFT IN YOUR OFFICE

I'VE ASKED HER TO TEXT AND E-MAIL THE FILES TO ME

?
N-
NOTHING
I'll take a look at what she sent me.
OKAY
EH?
Then I'll just continue with my work.
release
YEAH
WELL, I'LL GO BACK AND FINISH UP THE WORK FIRST
KENGO, AREN'T YOU GOING BACK TO THE OFFICE?
OH,
I FINISHED MY WORK ON THE TRAIN JUST NOW
NOW WE JUST NEED YOUR DESIGN
ANYWAY, IT'S MORE EFFICIENT IF I CHECK YOUR DESIGN ON THE SPOT
BESIDES
!
Yawn

WHA...?
blush
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
WE'RE HOME NOW.
WHY DO YOU THINK I STAYED UP TO FINISH EVERYTHING?
SO HURRY UP AND FINISH YOUR WORK TOO

W—
WAIT
WAIT, NOT YET
Ah
I STILL HAVE TO SEND THE E-MAIL
Ah
Haa
Haa
click
click
HURRY UP AND SEND IT THEN
Haa
Ah
KISS
KISS
KISS
I'M SO SLEEPY NOW I CAN'T CONTROL IT ANYMORE
IF YOU WOULD STOP HARASSING ME I WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND THIS NOW!

squelch
squelch
CAN I PUT IT IN NOW?
YOU'LL LET ME, RIGHT? ALTHOUGH WE'VE NEVER TRIED THIS POSITION BEFORE...
RIGHT?
WHA-?
HIDETOSHI... DON'T MAKE ME WAIT ANY MORE
AH
NO...
NN...
click
AH
AH
WAIT...
T-TO BED FIRST

IDIOT
I TOLD YOU TO WAI...
AH!
FWN
N-NOT HERE...
Ah!
NN...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
DOES IT MATTER? ANYWHERE WILL DO
RIGHT, HIDE-TOSHI?
AT ANY RATE, I'LL RESPECT YOUR NEED TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS.
SO...
LET'S COMPROMISE. IF YOU DECIDE TO WORK FREELANCE, WE'LL LIVE TOGETHER.

WOBBLE
WOBBLE
EH...?
AH!
AND LET'S GO BACK TO OUR HOMETOWN TOGETHER THIS LONG WEEKEND.
!?
shiver shiver
AH!
W-WHAT-
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
Haa
Haa
WOBBLE
WE CAN'T WE CAN'T... CAN'T
Haa
Haa
WOBBLE
OKAY?
WOBBLE
WE
CAN'T
NO
AH
WOBBLE
AH!
Ah
WOBBLE
Ah
WOBBLE

Hic
Hic
Hic
Hic
Ah
I'll go with you okay?
It's settled then.
You want to go home, don't you?
Take it that I'm forcing you to do it
Don't worry. We won't be found out
It'll be okay.

I should have done this long ago
Back then
Hug
If only I had held him that day
And back then too

FORGIVE ME
FOR BEING LATE
Make it all up to you
From now on, I'll...

Nothing really ?
EH?
What did you say Kenta?

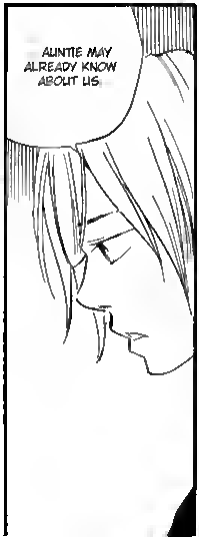
*Nagisa Mutsuura

Here it comes
Auntie's special braised meat
It looks delicious!
HERE
PLEASE TAKE THIS OUTSIDE
EH...?
startle
HIDETOSHI
KENGO

YUP
I TOLD THEM THAT I WOULDN'T COME BACK UNLESS THEY ACCEPTED YOU
sit
IS IT TRUE WHAT AUNTIE SAID? THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HOME ONCE EXCEPT FOR TODAY?
HEY, HIDETOSHI
KISS ME
IDIOT.
RIGHT HERE OF ALL PLACES?
NO OTHER PLACE WOULD BE AS MEANINGFUL

LET'S START AFRESH.
SO GIVE ME YOUR FIRST KISS

MAYBE
...IT MAY NOT BE A BAD THING, THOUGH
SHE'S NOT STUPID AFTER ALL

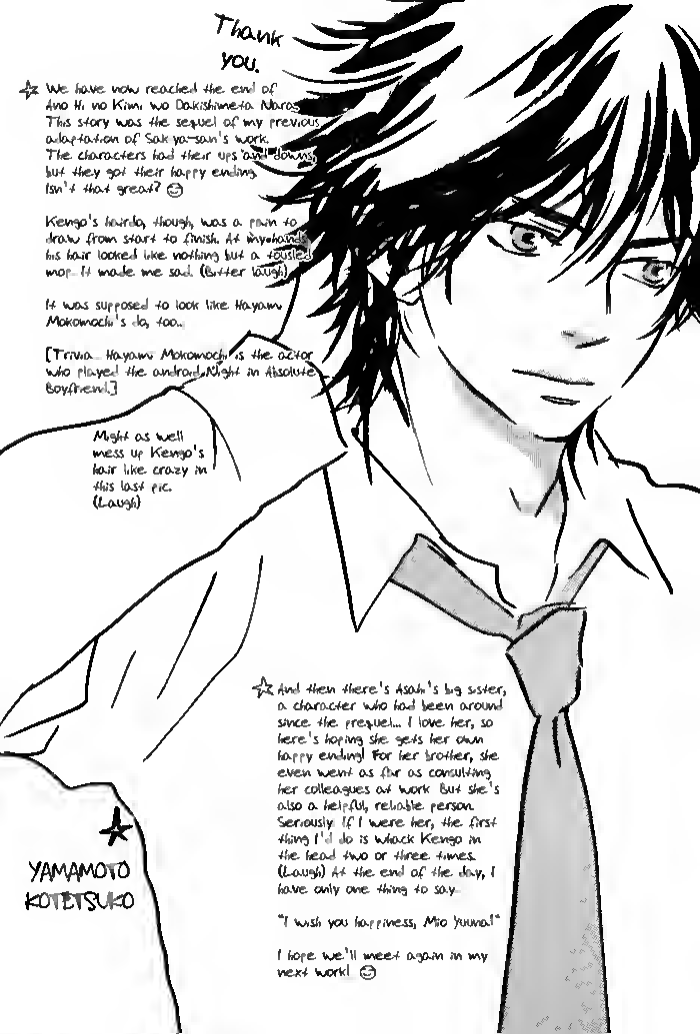

...AUNTIE MAY ALREADY KNOW ABOUT US.

...DON'T YOU FIND THIS EMBARRASSING?
YEP. RATHER

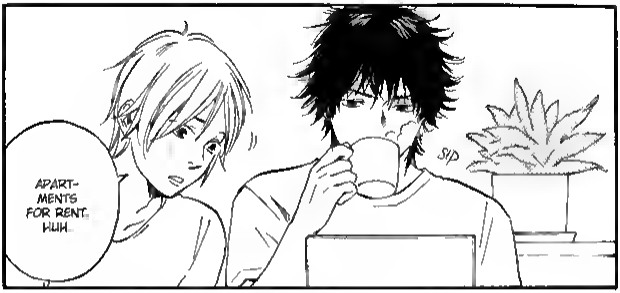
THIS IS EXCITING... SNEAKING A KISS BEHIND OUR PARENTS BACKS
IDIOT

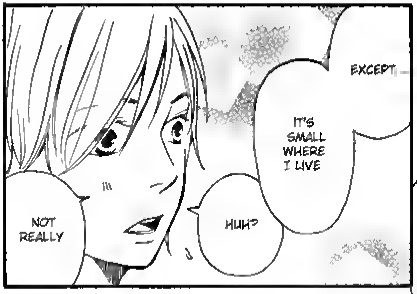
Although we've lost a great deal it's not completely over for us.
Because the person whom I let slip away that day...

KENGO, HIDETOSHI-KUN,
YOUR TEA S READY.
I can hold him close like this from now on
END


Thank you.
We have now reached the end of Ano Hi no Kimi wo Dakishimeta Nara. This story was the sequel of my previous adaptation of Sakuya-san's work. The characters had their ups and downs, but they got their happy ending. Isn't that great?
Kengo's hairdo, though, was a pain to draw from start to finish. At Hayakawa's, his hair looked like nothing but a tousled mop. It made me sad. (Bitter laugh)
It was supposed to look like Hayami Mokomochi's do, too..
[Trivia... Hayami Mokomochi is the actor who played the android Night in Absolute Boyfriend.]
Might as well mess up Kengo's hair like crazy in this last pic. (Laugh)
And then there's Asahi's big sister, a character who had been around since the prequel... I love her, so here's hoping she gets her own happy ending! For her brother, she even went as far as consulting her colleagues at work. But she's also a helpful, reliable person. Seriously. If I were her, the first thing I'd do is whack Kengo in the head two or three times. (Laugh) At the end of the day, I have only one thing to say.
"I wish you happiness, Mio Yuuna!"
I hope we'll meet again in my next work!
YAMAMOTO KOTETSUKO

HOW ABOUT SOME COFFEE?
SOUNDS GREAT
ウレシイナヤミ
A Happy Problem
Thanks
Here's your coffee
set
HM...
?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT ALL SERIOUS?


APART-
MENTS
FOR RENT.
HUH...
SIP


NOT
REALLY
HUH?
IT'S
SMALL
WHERE
I LIVE
EXCEPT...

Moving to a new place would be expensive.
I...
WAS
THINKING
OF MOVING
INTO YOUR
PLACE
YEAH,
THAT'S WHAT
I THOUGHT

MY
BATHROOM,
I MEAN

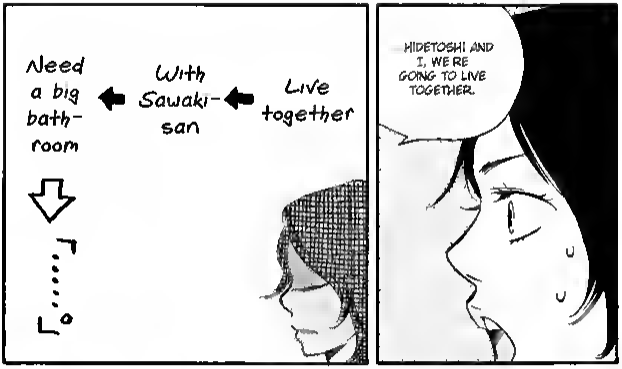
YOU'RE GETTING WORKED UP OVER SOMETHING THIS STUPID?
That's why I'm looking for a place with a huge bathroom.
THAT SAID, YOURS IS SMALL, TOO
IT'S TOO SMALL FOR US TO SHOWER TOGETHER
HAVING YOU WITH ME IS ENOUGH TO KEEP ME HAPPY!
You don't have to yell!
WE ARE A COUPLE!
IT'S NOT STUPID! IT'S IM-PORTANT
SAY THAT AGAIN
What's enough?
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING
MY POINT IS, I DON'T CARE ABOUT BATHROOM SIZES
AH...

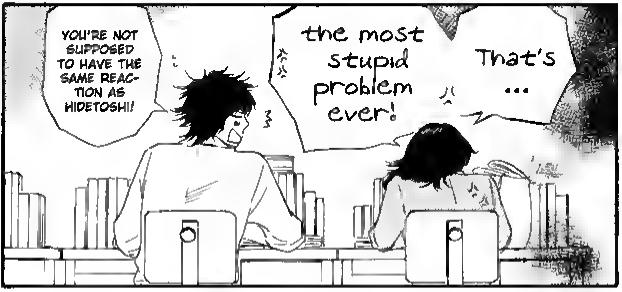
MAKE UP YOUR MIND AL-
Grab
kiss
AH

I'M IN BLISS, TOO
FULL OF BLISS

KENGO...
I love you.
MORNING!
Yeah. Hi

BATH-ROOM?
HEY MIO YOU KNOW OF ANY PLACE WITH A BIG BATHROOM?
WHY SO SPECIFIC ABOUT THAT?
WHAT, MATSUURA?
YOU'RE THINKING MOVING OR SOMETHING?
YEP.
Almost always with built-in bathtubs too
MOST STUDIO APARTMENTS HAVE SMALL BATHROOMS, YOU KNOW
IF A REAL HOUSE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK FOR AN APARTMENT BUILT FOR A FAMILY.
Hm
YOU'VE GOT A POINT
YEAH. YOU SEE...
How?
YOU'RE NO LONGER DEPENDING ON YOUR PARENTS?!
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY LOOKING FOR A SUPER HUGE APARTMENT I'M GOING INDEPENDENT
WHAT?


Need a big bath-room
With Sawaki-san
Live together
HIDETOSHI AND I, WE'RE GOING TO LIVE TOGETHER.


YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE SAME REAC-TION AS HIDETOSHI!
the most stupid problem ever!
That's ...

SNEEZE

END

Sakiya Haruhi
あとがき

コミックスをお手にとってくださった皆様、原作の崎谷です。約二年連載の『あの日のきみを抱きしめたなら』、このコミックスにて完結となります。

同じコラボで『あしたのきみはここにいない』という作品も手がけさせて頂きましたが（よろしければこちらも手にとってくださいませ）、あちらは最初から落としどころを決めていたのに対し、六浦と沢木はどこに走っていくかよくわかんないキャラで、けっこう苦労させられました。けれどこうして手を離れてしまうとなんだか寂しい気もするから、不思議なものです……両方の作品通して、いちばんの功労者は、間違いなく三尾夕奈だと思いますけど（笑）

山本先生、連載、お疲れさまでした。トータル三冊のコミックスが出るまでの約三年、本当にお世話になりました。原作者としても試行錯誤しつつの状態で、ご迷惑をおかけしたと思いますが、いろいろと至らない私の原作が、しっかりしたマンガになったのは、山本先生のお力あってのことだと思います。本当にありがとうございました。

担当さん、毎度ながらご迷惑をおかけしておりますが、今後ともよろしくお願いします。

そして読んでくださった皆様に、なにか届けられるものがあれば、幸いです。

崎谷はるひ

□初出□

第7話――ルチルvol.24（2008年5月）
第8話――ルチルvol.25（2008年7月）
第9話――ルチルvol.26（2008年9月）
第10話――ルチルvol.27（2008年11月）
第11話――ルチルvol.28（2009年1月）
第12話――ルチルvol.29（2009年3月）
あとがき山本小鉄子――描き下ろし
ウレシイナヤミ――描き下ろし
あとがき崎谷はるひ――描き下ろし

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あの日のきみを抱きしめたなら②
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